



**The Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development
Nashville, TN
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NEWS RELEASE

James Neeley
Commissioner

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Communications Officer

Department of Labor & Workforce Development Offers Free Child Labor Seminars

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development is launching a new program to inform employers of important points contained in the Child Labor Law.

Originally established to assist businesses found to have violations during inspections by the department, the Child Labor Law Seminars are now reaching out to all employers who hire minors and want to insure they are compliant with the Child Labor Act.

“At this time of year, people are hiring more and more workers under 18 years of age, and many employers are just not aware that there are laws protecting minors that they must follow,” said Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James G. Neeley. “We’re inviting employers to attend these seminars to ask questions and to learn their legal responsibilities in the employment of minors.”

A minor must be 14 years of age to be gainfully employed, and specific proof of his age must be maintained at the employment location. Other requirements spelled out by the Child Labor Act and discussed at the seminars involve hours of work, breaks, and restricted occupations and work environments.

“The seminars last about an hour. You’ll become familiar with the statutes and will leave knowing what is required of you in employing minors, including documentation that must be maintained,” said Neeley.

The seminars are free and are open to employers, teachers, parents, and students statewide. They are presently offered at 1:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month in Nashville in the Andrew Johnson Building of the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development. Plans are to expand seminar locations to Jackson, Knoxville, and Memphis later this year.

To register for the next seminar, which will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, contact Thomas Hamlett at (615) 253-5279 or email Thomas.Hamlett@state.tn.us.

Seminar dates for the remainder of the year are May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

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NOTE: Media coverage is invited.